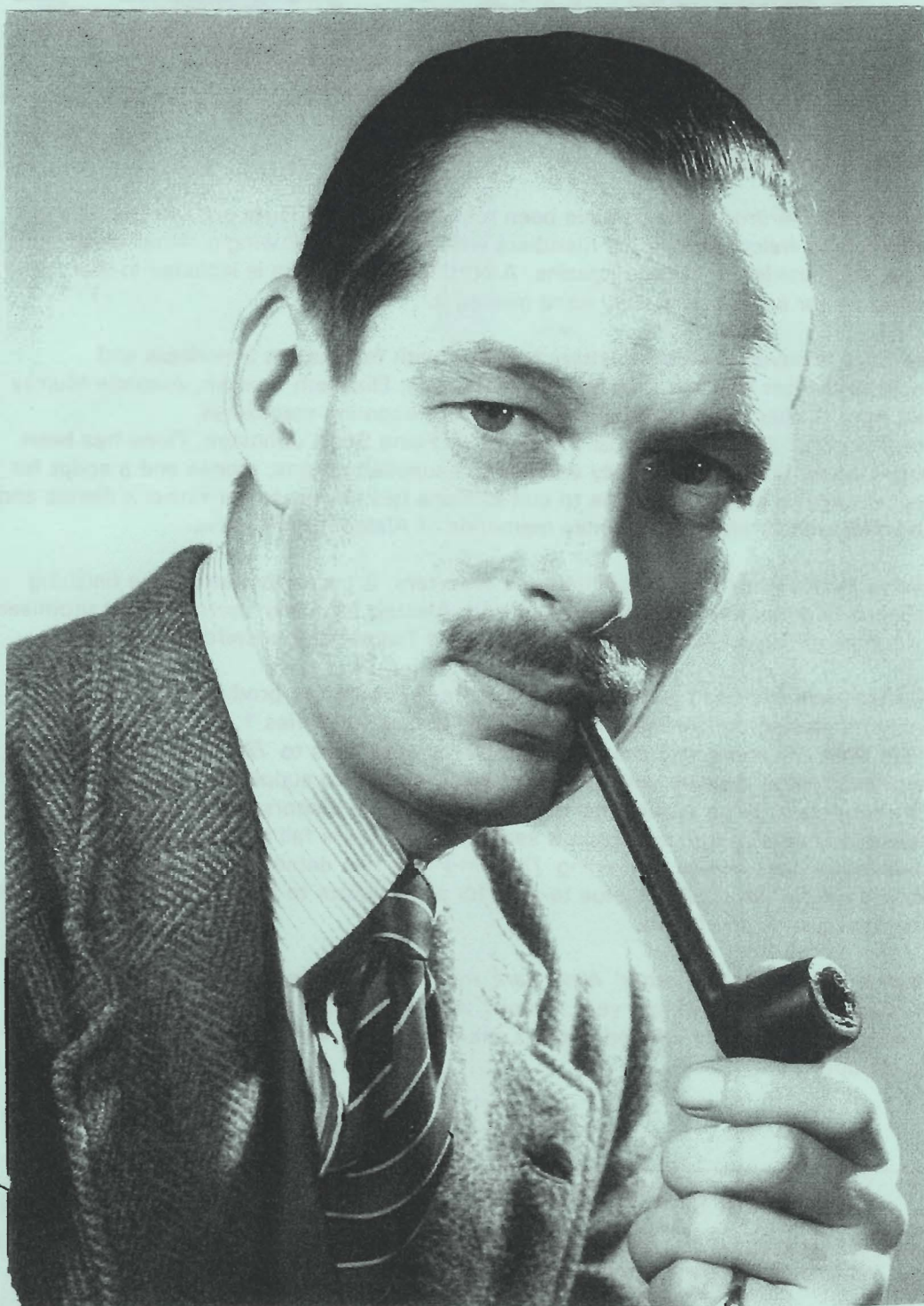




The Navy Lark Appreciation Society Newsletter

# NAVY DAYS



ALASTAIR SCOTT JOHNSTON





Welcome aboard once again.

Here in the wardroom things have been moving quite fast in recent months. We are delighted to welcome the new members who joined us following a rather prestigious front page article in *Yours* magazine. A cutting of that issue is included in this magazine for anyone who may have missed it.

We have received wonderful letters together with fascinating anecdotes and enclosures from Heather Chasen, Judy Cornwell, Elizabeth Morgan, Amanda Murray and April Walker which will be published in forthcoming magazines. For this particular issue, special thanks go to Fiona Scott Johnston. Fiona has been busy looking through the family archive and supplied photos, stories and a script for our use AND a promise of more to come. Fiona has access to her father's diaries and personal archive along with family memories of Alastair's BBC days.

Evelyn Wells, Alastair Scott Johnston's secretary, is currently putting the finishing touches to a piece for us. She worked with Alastair for many years and has promised us copies of some colour slides of the crew of Troutbridge in uniform.

Our web-site has been given a new look. Steve Arnold has produced a lovely animation based on the BBC Worldwide CD box set of Series 1. Users of the World Wide Web will appreciate the recent proliferation of links to *The Navy Lark* in search engines. Kelkoo appears with regularity as being able to supply the movie or DVD of *The Navy Lark*. After clicking on the link, prospective visitors are taken straight to Kelkoo's "home" page; subsequent searches from there fail to direct you to any meaningful page or site containing *The Navy Lark* film details or purchase opportunities. We shall continue to wait for a distributor to be keen enough to release the film again in the future.

*Watch Your Stern* the 'other' *Navy Lark* movie was deleted from the distributor's catalogue at the end of last year. A copy was found by trawling the net in early January but at hugely inflated costs. Look out for previously viewed copies; they will be cheaper.

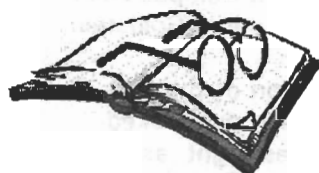
### **Navy Lark Appreciation Society Newsletter - Issue 15 Spring 2004**

Subscriptions and articles for publication: Fred Vintner Honeysuckle Cottages, Little Street, Yoxford, Suffolk, IP17 3JQ  
Tape, CD, Video Library: Iden Adams, 135 Languard Road, Eastney, Portsmouth, Hants. PO4 9OS  
Navy Lark Log: Tony Reynolds, 19 Somerset Drive, Birmingham, B31 4RA  
Webmaster: Steve Arnold, 100 Stanford House, Princes Margaret Road, East Tilbury, Essex RM18 8YR



To satisfy many requests for help in locating the film of *The Navy Lark*, may I remind you that Iden has a copy in the tape library which can be borrowed in the normal way. Tony Lang has undertaken a huge task for us and put together hundreds of stills in sequential order from each film to form 2 storyboard books. The NLAS will publish the photo stories alongside facsimile copies of the original Press Books and all published artwork for both films in 2004. We hope to have *The Navy Lark* film book out this Summer; *Watch Your Stern* could be ready for Christmas!

Many enquiries are received on a weekly basis regarding the availability and source of *Navy Lark* radio shows. Wherever possible, we try to provide as current a picture as possible about availability and possible sources of these recordings. The NLAS would be in a complete pickle if it weren't for Louise Armitage, Charlotte Schwartz and Cherry Sinclair at the BBC who have moved mountains to dig out files and really helped us get on top of the details surrounding the *Navy Lark* releases over recent years. The level of support and integrity applied to our various requests has been met with total professionalism and aplomb. Everyone in the wardroom salutes you!

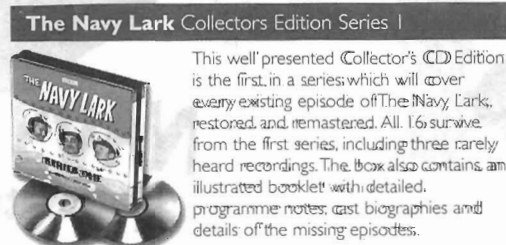


If you have purchased all 15 of the cassette releases, invested in the CD box set released just before Christmas 2003 and are eager to know what is up and coming read on. *Navy Lark 16* will be in the shops in the first week of July; we understand it will be available in both cassette and CD form. We have no confirmed details of the shows being considered for this set at the present. A new CD box set of remastered recordings featuring half the shows from series 2 will be in the shops in the first week of June 2004. Ted Kendall finished the work on those tapes back in early February and awaits the finding of 4 shows to complete the series. During the project he did locate a very good copy of "The Route March" (01.01.1960) minus the last 10 seconds which has 'the punch line'. so PLEASE sift through those tape boxes and see if you have a show that starts:

02/12 *"There Have been many books printed on the art of public speaking" and just to see if we can complete the set, the BBC also needs:*

- 02/07 *"An Englishman is entitled to his own point of view and the right to express it freely"*
- 02/14 *"Every day there are board meetings taking place at which monumental decisions have to be taken"*
- 02/20 *"No matter what the position you hold, an interview with one's superior can be very unnerving."*

The second half of that series in box set 3 will be coming out in March 2005, so we have sufficient time to dig around and get the original tapes back to Ted for tidying up and inclusion in second release of series 2.



This well presented Collector's CD Edition is the first in a series which will cover every existing episode of *The Navy Lark*, restored and remastered. All 16 survive from the first series, including three rarely heard recordings. The box also contains an illustrated booklet with detailed programme notes, cast biographies and details of the missing episodes.





The BBC re-released 4 shows on a 'budget' label last year. The Comedy Zone is a 'label' specifically for motorway service stations and points of sale where the travelling public get a chance to sample a range of material on a single CD. The price for a 2 show CD was £7.99. Unlike previous compilation albums with extracts from a variety of artistes and shows marketed at a nominal cost to the public, these releases are delightful well presented CDs in a jewel box continue *The Navy Lark* tradition by using the appropriate lettering style and cropped photos across the entire artwork. At present there are no plans to continue issuing more Navy Larks in this way but if the decision changes, we will endeavour to bring details in the usual way.

**Comedy Zone *The Navy Lark* ONE**

Episode 1: 06 October 1961 The Northampton Hunt Ball

Episode 2; 15 October 1967 Cuthbert Joins The Navy

**Comedy Zone *The Navy Lark* TWO**

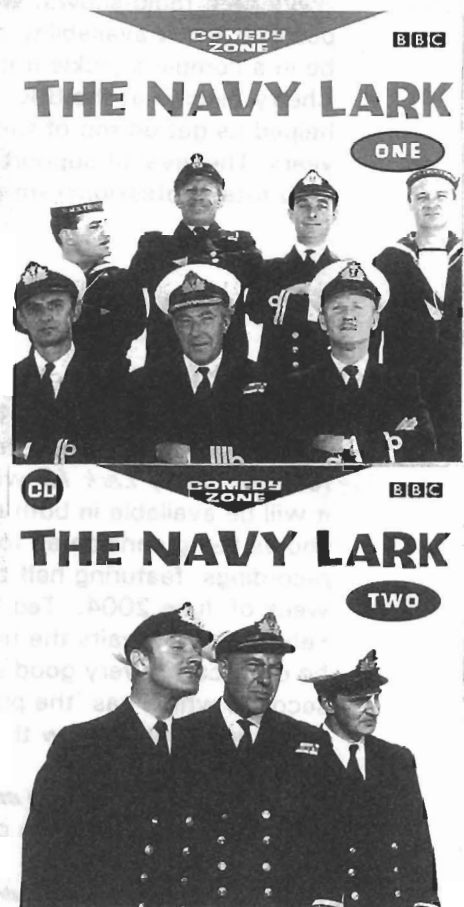
Episode 1: 14 December 1960 Mount Rumpus Atoll

Episode 2; 22 February 1961 Commodore Goldstein

Our promise to bring you an illustration of the first of our mugs in this issue has not been overlooked but with space in the magazine as tight as it always is, we decided that as this is subs month it would be wiser to seek mug orders in the next magazine. Our supplier will fire the number of mugs requested. The NLAS will not carry any stock of these items as the unit cost is beyond our capability. The NLAS will not be making any profit from these items - we will request only the manufacturer's price plus postage and packing costs.

This issue of Navy Days is the last one to have a section of the Navy Lark Family tree printed on the back cover. If you feel you might like to own the entire document as a single sheet, you will need to review Pertwee's Plunder and see what he has to offer this time round.

Thank you for the many letters and enquiries in recent months. The Society thrives on your interest and commitment so keep those eyes peeled and do please continue to send in cuttings or photocopies from any periodical from any time. You surely must have an old pile of magazines with a photo or mention of one or two of Troutbridge's finest inside! We are also keen to learn of any recordings featuring the ship's company. Better still, if you can laser copy the cover, disc, inlay card we would be pleased to reproduce it in the magazine.





# Those radio days

Remembering the voices and the programmes we loved to hear on the wireless

Let's listen to...

## The Navy Lark

"Left hand down a bit."  
"Left hand down a bit it is, sir."

The Navy Lark was one of radio's longest running sitcoms, sailing the airwaves aboard HMS Troutbridge from 1959 until 1977.

The motley crew included Stephen Murray as Number One, Leslie Philips as a silly ass of a sub-lieutenant and Jon Pertwee as a Petty Officer.

The show brought fame for a young Ronnie Barker (UN-Able Seaman Fatso Johnson), who had been in The Floggits (which also featured Joan Sims and Anthony Newley) but the stars of the show, Elsie and Doris Waters, felt he got too many laughs, so his appearance was short-lived.

Of his role, Leslie Philips once



Elvi Hale and Leslie Philips in the Navy Lark film version, 1959

wryly observed: "I caused more damage to naval property than the Navy had done in two World Wars."

● If you're a Navy Lark fan, contact The Navy Lark Appreciation Society, Honeysuckle Cottage, Little Street, Yoxford, Suffolk IP17 3JQ, enclosing an SAE.

PIC: MIRAGE SYNDICATION INTERNATIONAL



## TUESDAY 13 January

BBC1

*I can't believe my ears!*

● The Navy Lark's theme music was The Trade Wind Hornpipe

### 11.05 Revolver

**CHOICE** New series 1/6. An inventive comedy sketch series which sees TV icons join forces with up-and-coming comedians. John Inman, Leslie Phillips, Julie Goodyear and Gordon Kaye are among the familiar faces this week. Director Eric Ngowan Haynes; Producer Gary Chippington (S) 876077

**Revolver 11.05pm**  
Suave, fearless but deeply unfortunate in his chosen field, Leslie Phillips stars as new comic creation the Safecracker



RadioTimes

## WEDNESDAY 4 February

# TODAY'S CHOICES

### COMEDY

## Ronnie Barker's Comedy Heroes

9.00pm Five

☞ This series isn't put together as smoothly as some clip shows, but it's a great introduction to old comics you'd otherwise never see. Tonight Ronnie Barker talks us through his comedy heroes, many of them largely forgotten performers such as Glenn McIlvyn, whose stutter Barker borrowed for Arkwright in *Open All Hours*.

I'd never seen George Carl's amazing physical comedy before – no words, just fighting with a microphone stand,

juggling his hat, getting his braces tangled, a kind of slapstick ballet. Carl clearly influenced Lee Evans, just as another Barker favourite, Chick Murra helped Billy Connolly along.

Tracing these lines of inheritance is one of the delights of *Ronnie Barker's Comedy Heroes*, but there are other treats, too. At one point Barker proves he knows all the words of a 90mph song by Phil Harris (best known now as the voice of Baloo in *The Jungle Book*) by miming along perfectly.

Naturally, a few of Barker's chosen clips look a bit lame and dated today, but others, such as a great Victor Borge routine, have aged amazingly well. It's impossible to finish the programme without a smile on your face.

David Butcher

Five

**Ronnie Barker's Comedy Heroes**  
9.00pm It'll be a good night with him as the veteran comic revels in mirth

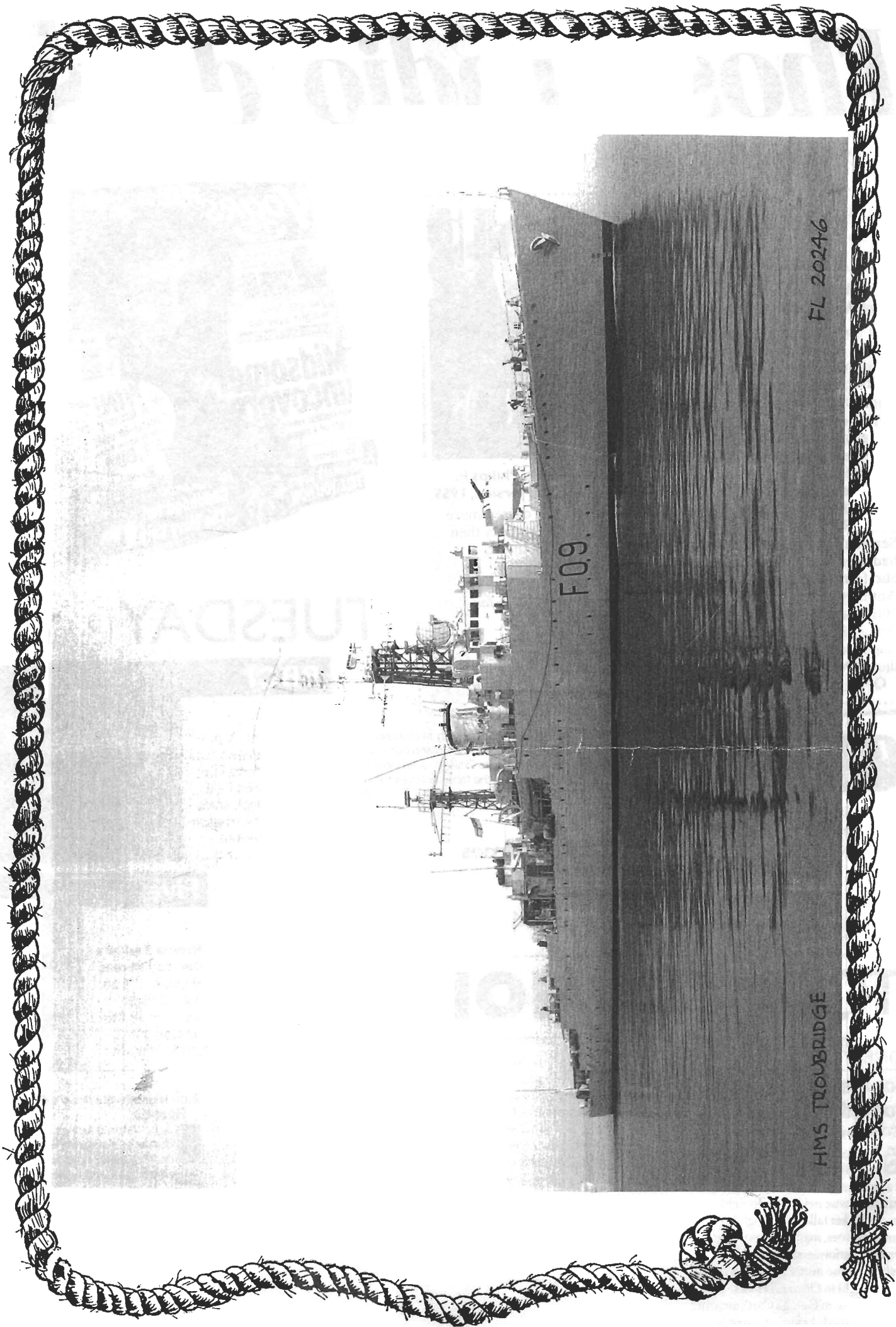


## 9.00 Ronnie Barker's Comedy Heroes

**CHOICE** 3/3. Veteran funnyman Ronnie Barker applauds his favourite comedy idols. A big fan of stand-up comedians, silly walks and musical skits, he hails such influences as Laurel and Hardy and Frank Carson, as well as banjo-ukulele player George Formby and the master of the silent movie Charlie Chaplin.

Series producer Michael Forte; Executive producer Andrew O'Connor (S) 6311013





FL 20246

HMS TROUBRIDGE

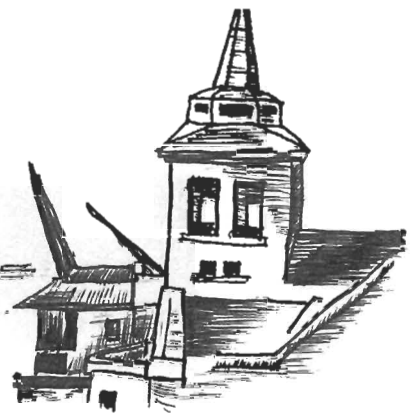
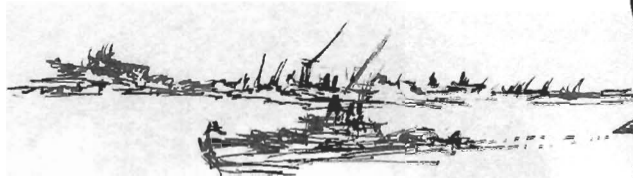




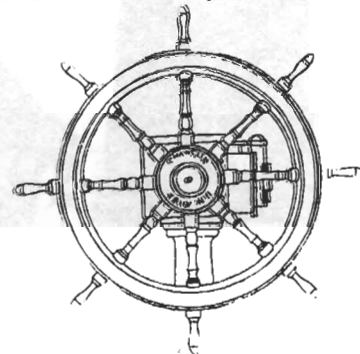
Alastair Scott (no hyphen) Johnston joined the BBC (on an impulse!) having decided that a career in banking was a very unsuitable vocation. Alastair was walking past Broadcasting House one day, disillusioned with working in finance, when impulse propelled him inwards to enquire whether any job vacancies existed. Despite being advised that the application list for a particular post had closed, he managed to persuade the appointments officer to add his name to the end of the list. He sat up most of that night reading 6 plays cover to cover, and when interviewed was able to eclipse the panel's working knowledge of those particular plays. His knowledge and enthusiasm inspired the interviewers, who duly appointed him. His early days in radio included the job best described as "effects boy", with responsibility for finding and producing extraneous sounds/music for various productions. Alastair was very much a typical BBC career man. He loved working in light entertainment and was never happier than when crafting and honing his many shows. Born in London, he was very aware that the BBC had a great many Johnsons and Johnstons so to set himself apart he introduced one of his family middle names: Scott Johnston was 'born'.

The 1939-45 World War interrupted Alastair's career in broadcasting. His army record shows that he served with distinction in Burma and India. Upon returning to the BBC and his radio based career after the war, he became a producer in the variety department after just 6 months tenure (1946). Alastair worked in the midst of such notables as Henry Hall. Early successes such as "All Star Bill" launched Tony Hancock, Frankie Howerd, Anthony Newley, Ronnie Barker and even Semprini. Entertainment shows under his supervision evolved into "Variety Playhouse" "The Floggits" and a host of well loved shows. Despite being a very busy person he kept a diary for his entire life, in which he carefully chronicled his professional life. Using the entries from this primary source, we can quickly separate fact from fiction, especially where The Navy Lark is concerned.



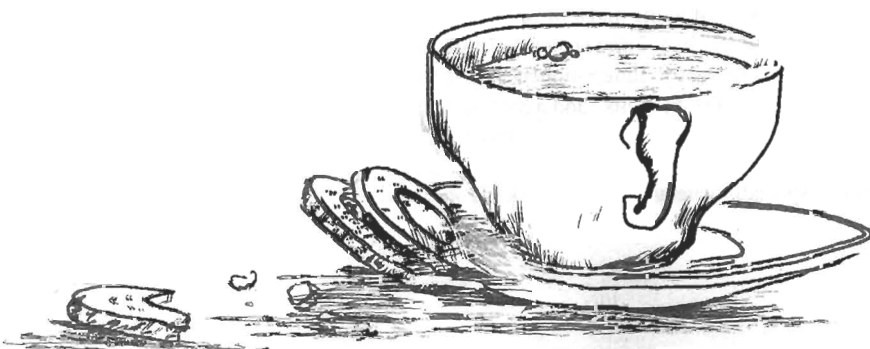


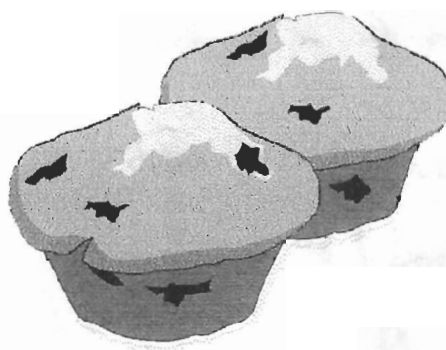
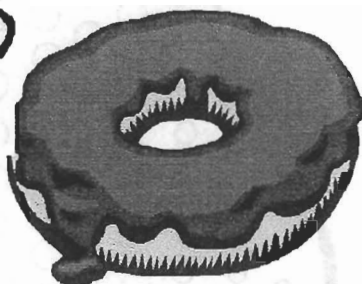
A common misconception was that The "Navy Lark" was meant to be a vehicle for Jon Pertwee: a frequently quoted remark but without any substance. Laurie wrote a synopsis for a programme and took it to Alastair Scott Johnston; at this point it was actually not written for any particular service, but as Scott Johnston was from an army background and Laurie Wyman had served in the air force they decided to split the difference and agreed on the Navy Lark, so neither of them would have the "upper hand" with regard to protocol or experience. The Idea of a 'Services' Lark came from Laurie in conversation. Laurie is also on record as saying that "Jolly Jack Tar" could be forgiven anything because of his conditions of service (being stuck in a boat for long periods of time) whereas soldiers or airman would not be tolerated so benevolently for making such silly or huge mistakes! There were four Larks in all "The Navy Lark", "The TV Lark", "The Embassy Lark" and "The Business Lark". An interesting point to note is that Alastair Scott Johnston had complete casting rights to all the shows he produced.



It is believed that a further sister show called "The Ministry Lark" was considered, pre-dating the long running "Men From the Ministry" (1962-1977) by a year or two. However, there is no mention of this in Scott Johnston's diaries, and Mrs. Scott Johnston confirms that she has no recollection of the show ever being seriously considered. Although Alastair may have discussed the possibility with Laurie Wyman, he worked more with writers John Junkin and Terry Nation (pre Dr. Who!) with whom he had frequent "Think-Fanks" - as they called them - for new shows.

It is very evident that Alastair evoked tremendous loyalty and a phenomenal team spirit amongst his colleagues in front of and behind the microphone. Evelyn Wells was Alastair Scott Johnston's secretary for over 15 years, and attests to the professionalism and care that personified Alastair's work and philosophy. Evelyn was invariably present at those Sunday recording sessions, always ready to type an extra script (no photocopiers in those days) or help out wherever needed (including keeping the younger members of the production team's families well nourished!).





## TV stars enjoy surprise party

A SURPRISE party at Foley Lodge on Tuesday to celebrate the silver wedding of BBC radio producer Alistair Scott Johnston was attended by many famous guests, including Ronnie Barker and Leslie Crowther.

Mr Scott Johnston, aged 63, has lived at Stanford Dingley for 22 years, and has been a radio producer since 1946. He was responsible for the "All Star Bill" which launched Tony Hancock, and produced the "Navy Lark" which went on the air for the first time in 1959.

His programmes were the start for household names such as Frankie Howerd, Ronnie Barker, Anthony Newley and John Junkin.

At the outbreak of the war he joined the Grenadier Guards and then went to Sandhurst. His war

experiences included fighting in Burma and he came out of the war a major. He returned to a job at the BBC and less than six months later became a producer in the variety department.

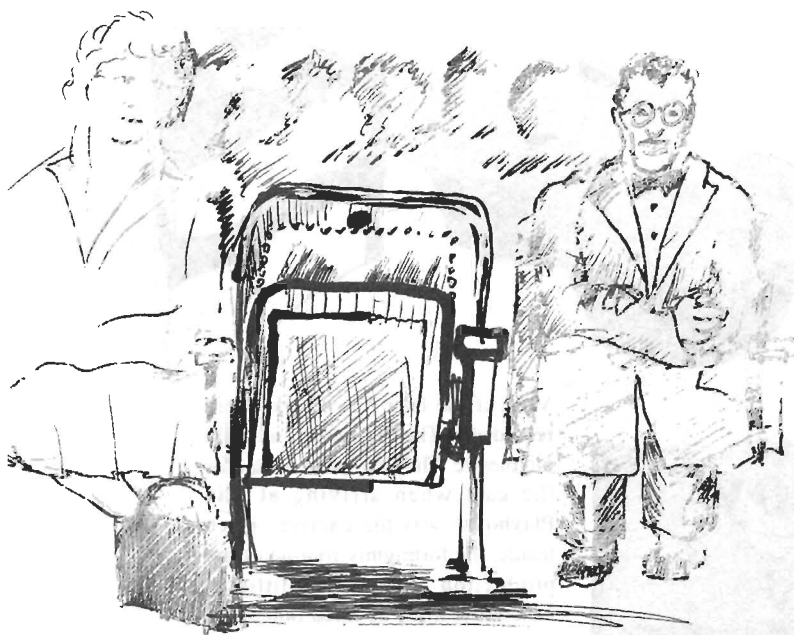
Tuesday evenings event was a surprise party thrown for him and his wife by a group of friends, including many famous names. Dave Allen was expected to attend, but eventually the group sat down to dinner without him. The couple's daughter Fiona, aged 21, and son Andrew, aged 22, were also there.

Most of the later Navy Larks were recorded at The Playhouse, a lovely old theatre. The first point of call for the cast when arriving at The Playhouse was the canteen. Once inside, the fortnightly routine of the production team varied little: a tortuous journey up three floors in a very old rickety lift which shuddered along, its occupants eventually being delivered to the canteen where the cast enjoyed several cups of coffee and 'sticky buns' and caught up on the gossip from the previous fortnight. This was followed by a procession down to the studio for the serious work of rehearsing two episodes between 3 and 6pm. An order for more refreshments was ALWAYS made for about 6pm! This practice continued right up until the final recording of the Navy Lark at the Paris Studio in 1977.

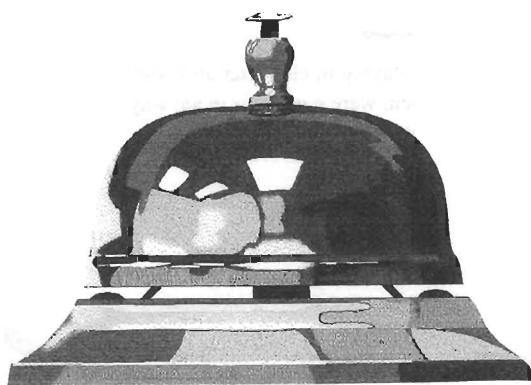
When they were all together, the cast seemed to have difficulty not **playing in character** and Alistair Scott Johnston was on the receiving end of many of their jokes. None of **them were malicious in anyway**, it was just that they realized it didn't take much to 'get him going'. The cast did **not always confine their jokes to rehearsals** either!



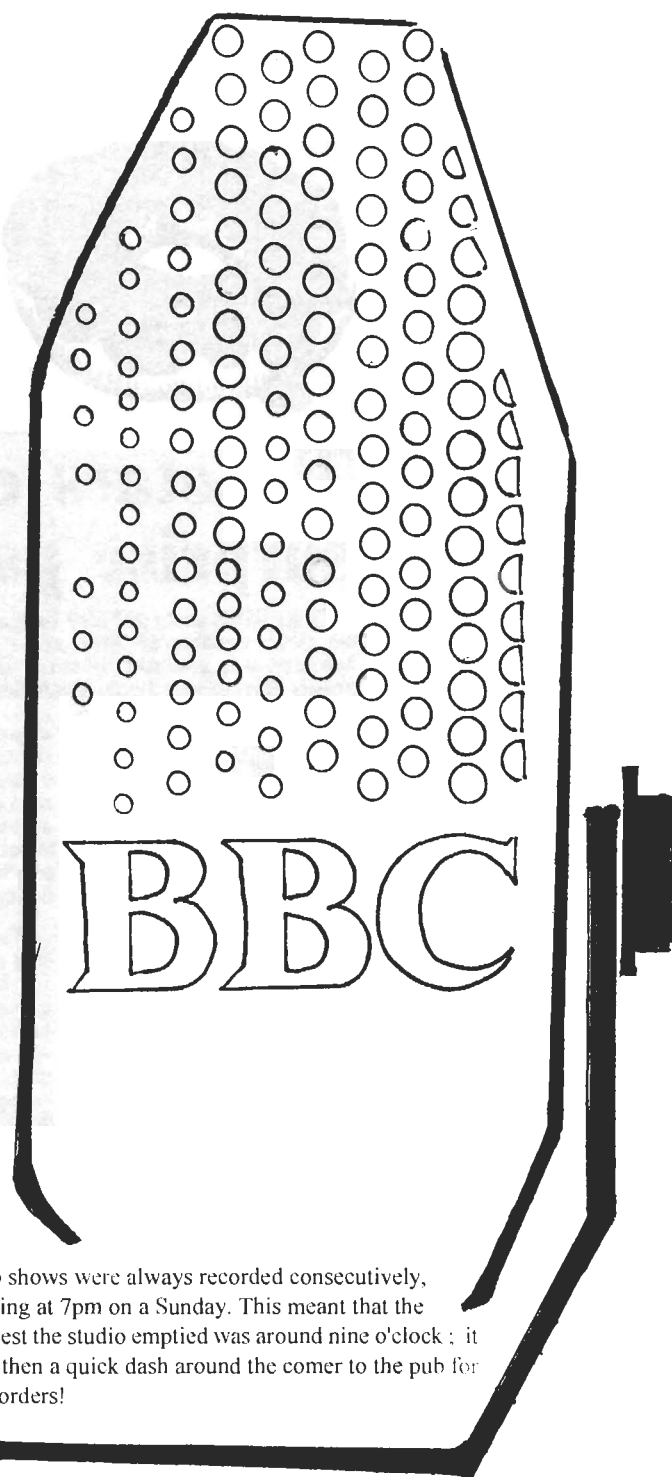




Prior to the live recording, Alastair would be given a list of coach parties so he could welcome them. He always did the warm-up chat, which varied little. He would explain studio management, recording technicalities, what the microphones hanging from the ceiling were for and so on. To one side of The Playhouse stage was a statue of a naked lady whose breasts he always covered with his hanky during one of his jokes (Jon Pertwee is known to have retold this story and mistakenly attributes the gag to him, but it was part of Alistair's regular warm-up routine. He also used to warn an unsuspecting member of the audience in the front row that they may well have to give up their particular seat as a blind gentleman was in the habit of attending the recordings and usually sat on it. There was, of course, no such person.



To be present at one of Alistair's recordings was a fascinating experience. If there was a technical error, or the cue light did not come on at the right time, or if a sound effect was not right, the whole scene would have to be re-recorded. Despite the inevitable repetition, the audience always managed to laugh in exactly the same place even though they had already heard the joke. We are still laughing at those wonderful lines today, even though we have heard them many times before. Praise and credit must go to the entire production team and cast for their commitment and talent in producing such a marvellous show, and in particular to Alastair Scott Johnston for his enduring comedic legacy.



Two shows were always recorded consecutively, starting at 7pm on a Sunday. This meant that the earliest the studio emptied was around nine o'clock; it was then a quick dash around the corner to the pub for last orders!

# How the good ship Troutbridge

Radio's *The Navy Lark* is celebrating 16 years of broadcasts and producer ALASTAIR SCOTT JOHNSTON, who retired this month, recalls the top secret Admiralty signal that launched the show...

## THE Board of Admiralty signal was headed: Unsatisfactory Naval Personnel.

It went on: "Officers commanding all formations will submit names of officers, petty officers and ratings regarded as unsatisfactory but not dismissable by court martial or other means. After selection they will be drafted to the newly refitted HMS *Troutbridge*, commissioning at Portsmouth on March 29, 1959. The Board expect a general rise in naval efficiency subsequent to this weeding out. Action this day".

This historic memorandum started a chain of events which was to lead to the longest-running situation comedy in radio history.

### Profit

The first person selected for the crew was one Leading Writer Wyman. Always one to try and turn disaster somehow into profit, he turned his steps to the Grosvenor Arms off Bond Street where he met up with me. After a number of beers it was agreed that, for a modest emolument, Wyman would provide the dirt on the rest of the crew and generally chronicle life on board the *Troutbridge*.

The first No. 1 was Lt Dennis Price,

the only efficient officer ever to serve in *Troutbridge*, but after the first series his horrified family clubbed together, bought him out of the Service, and despatched him to the wide open spaces of America.

The second was Lt Stephen Murray. Stephen's trouble was that he had a brother, Whittington Murray, MP, one of those gentlemen with an infallible nose for scandal. Plied with unusual quantities of drink one night, Stephen told all his best naval stories which, when purveyed across the floor of the House next day, resulted in early retirement for two Admirals, three Vice-Admirals and no less than 16 Captains. A naval career does not survive such things and thus did Lt Murray qualify for the *Troutbridge*.

Sub-Lieutenant Leslie Phillips got there for reasons of revenge. The officer commanding Dartmouth College, during what passed for his naval training, had just lost a major battle with a customarily parsimonious Admiralty and he did not take kindly to defeat and the near loss of his job. He also had a 'star' navigation pupil, one Midshipman L. Phelps. It was a simple matter to mix up the personal papers of these two and pass out Midshipman L. Phillips top of the class. It wasn't until Admiralty discovered the Home Fleet were anchored off the Falkland Islands instead of Scapa Flow that this little error came to light. Sub-Lieutenant Phillips's posting to *Troutbridge* was immediate.

CPO Pertwee's clanger was even more spectacular. Realising that in a career devoted to smuggling there was no ship in the Royal Navy more appro-

priate to this exercise than the *Britannia*, he wangled a posting. Unfortunately, following a state visit to a Mediterranean country, *Britannia* inexplicably ran out of fuel and had to be towed in.

Investigation showed that two of her fuel tanks had been emptied, presumably to find the capital to purchase a large proportion of that year's output of wine from the country just visited, which was discovered in the hold.

Nothing could be proved, for nothing ever can be proved with a Pertwee, but the Monarch was not amused.

Thus gradually the crew assembled, blissfully unaware that typing away in his little cubby hole next to the CO's cabin Leading Writer Wyman was graphically and accurately recording their every move.

### Unaware

HMS *Troutbridge* was on sea trials when the first "Navy Lark" broadcast went out, so they missed it. The rest of Portsmouth, however, didn't, and the looks they got when they got back frightened the life out of them.

They heard the second show in appalled silence.

They were not to know their Calvary was to go on for 17 years while the actors, Stephen Murray, Leslie Phillips, Jon Pertwee, Richard Caldicott, Heather Chasen, Tenniel Evans and Michael Bates and, for the first eight years, of course, Ronnie Barker, were steadily to increase their reputations and standing in an honourable profession.

It's a wicked world. It's also downright unfair.

## turned so bad



Some real sailors—from the Clyde submarine base—visited *The Navy Lark* team during a recent recording session. Mingling with the men in uniform are (from left, standing) Alastair Scott Johnston (producer), Heather Chasen and April Walker (they play Wrens), Richard Caldicott (Capt Povey), Stephen Murray (Lt-Comdr) and Tenniel Evans (Leading Seaman). Jon Pertwee, Leslie Phillips and Michael Bates are in the front row.

Picture: Ministry of Defence



Alastair became a published poet during his service years. Fiona Scott Johnston has been kind enough to dig out various cuttings, mementoes and photos for us and provide some fascinating details all of which have been included here. We are privileged to be able to publish two poems, complete with annotations, just as they were composed and forwarded almost 60 years ago!

On The Road to Mandalay, 1944-45.

Through the intertwining jungle  
Almost trackless through the Ages  
Winds the road to Mandalay.  
To Kohima, down to Imphal  
Cross the mountains ever onward,  
On to Tamu, on to Tiddim,  
Cross the Chindwin at Kalewa,  
On to Shwebo and Monywa,  
Winds the road to Mandalay.  
Day and night processions passing  
Pour down to the Irrawaddy  
Where the famous flying fishes  
Play net new at Mandalay.  
Trucks and Jeeps, three tenners, staff cars,  
Motor cycles and transporters,  
Tanks and tractors, ducks and lorries,  
Backward, forward, up and downward  
Ever moving, never staying,  
Men are marching, fighting, dying,  
Cutting jungle, hacking, cursing,  
Hating, killing, digging, crawling,  
Bit by bugs and in countless numbers,  
Resting, sleeping, up and onward,  
Through the dust cloud in the summer,  
Thicker than the fogs of London,  
Almost drowned in rainy weather,  
Sticking in the oozing slime.  
In this way the Fourteenth Army,  
Pushing, groping, bombing, strafing,  
Hiding, shooting, blasting, crying,  
~~Pushing~~ Fights its way to Mandalay.  
~~Pushing~~

ALASTAIR SCOTT JOHNSTON

(Capt. 14<sup>th</sup> Army)

(To Mr H.G. MILSON  
45 Cleveland Square W.2)

### THE LITTLE GOLDEN TEMPLE AT KALEWA.

There's a little golden temple on the hill above the Chin-dwin,  
With the clear pellucid water flowing by,  
Where the sun shines ever glinting on the dome of that small temple  
At Kalewa, next the Chin-dwin's quaggl'ing sigh.

There was green among the mountains that surround the golden temple,  
There was green in all the water passing by,  
There was brown amongst the houses from the dust clouds of the summer,  
Now there's red to add where young men had to die.

Yes, they broke the peace of ages when they came across the mountains,  
And before them men and women had to fly,  
And they occupied the village, tried to desecrate the temple,  
Could the villagers be blamed for wond'ring why?

Three long years they had to wait before the peace again was broken,  
Shattering discords, bombers blasting from on high.  
Great explosions shook Kalewa, forced the yellow bastards Eastwards,  
And there's not much left here now ~~xxx~~ to please the eye.

For the little golden temple, yes that temple too has suffered  
Inanimate, ~~xx~~ without a single cry.  
Now it's peaceful in Kalewa by the waters of the Chin-dwin,  
And each morning half a temple greets the sky.

ALASTAIR SCOTT JOHNSTON

(Capt. 14<sup>th</sup> Army)

C/o Mrs M.G. MILSON  
45 Cleveland Square W.2



# He's made many people famous and BROUGHT PLEASURE TO MILLIONS

TUCKED away in a picturesque country cottage in Stanford Dingley lives a man whose work in entertainment has brought pleasure to millions of people.

In 30 years with the BBC he has stood in the background while the young stars he has launched have taken all the limelight.

Household names such as Frankie Howard, Ronnie Barker, Anthony Newley and John Junkin all owe their start to this modest 56-year-old.

Alistair Scott Johnston has been a BBC radio producer since 1946. His achievements include the "Navy Lark" (the longest-ever running situation comedy series) and pioneering stereo radio.

But the glitz surrounding the world in which he works has not rubbed off on the simple country life Mr. Scott Johnston leads.

He lives with his wife and young family in an old black and white country cottage called "Dumble Dore" in Jennett's Hill, Stanford Dingley.

Inside the quaint cottage the tall casually-dressed radio producer has to stoop below the low exposed beams.

by Stephen  
Nickolls

Working life started for the London-born Mr. Scott Johnston in what was then called the Standard Bank of South Africa. "It took me and the bank nearly two years for us to decide that I was unsuitable for the job," he smiled.

But joining the BBC was to be a "one-off chance" as the disillusioned bank clerk was passing Broadcasting House.

"On the spur of the moment, I saw the appointments officer and asked for a job. He said there was a vacancy for a drama affects man for radio but, the list had been closed."

"I managed to persuade him to add my name to the list and that night I sat up reading six plays."

"At the interviewing board, I knew more than the interviewing panel—at least about these six plays—and was offered the job," recalled Mr. Scott Johnston.

"Everything was done live in those days and my job was

to give effects like rattling the drums and knocking coconut shells together."

A time spent in the drama effects department and Mr. Scott Johnston moved on to gramophone working and was doing this job for just over a year.

"Someone decided that we should do something on the outbreak of the Great War and my job centered around the small effects studio."

Just at the critical moment of the shooting of Archduke Ferdinand there was an explosion in one of the turntables and it caught fire.

"Thick black smoke spiralled from the turntable and someone rushed away and came back seconds later with a foam fire extinguisher."

"He activated the extinguisher and foam spewed from the thing. There was foam everywhere. The effects room ground to a halt and foam rose to the ceiling."

## KISS OF LIFE

"The next thing I knew, I was outside in the corridor receiving the kiss of life from a young matron. For a moment I misunderstood her intentions..." laughed the producer.

Life started to take a more serious note in the late 1930's and with the war only months away, the BBC man was taught to fly in the Civil Air Guard.

"When the war broke out, I was all set to go into the RAF until they realised that I could barely see out of one eye."

"I joined the Grenadier Guards and was sweeping the barracks in Caterham when I was noticed and was entered into Sandhurst."

(It was at Caterham that Alistair Scott Johnston experienced a remarkable change of roles as his company sergeant major had been a commissioner at BBC House before the war.)

Scott Johnston was commissioned and came out of Sandhurst. War experiences included fighting in Burma. He came out of the war a Major.

The war had a great effect on the BBC producer and although he is willing to recall experiences he finds it difficult to recall the real impact that the war had.

"When my children ask me what war was really like it's very difficult to explain. How can you explain what it's like sitting up a tree while the Japs are camping underneath?"

## BACK AT BBC

Unlike many men, Scott Johnston had a profession to come back to after the fighting and he re-joined the BBC.

In less than six months he became a producer in the variety department and among the many programmes running at the time he took over was a variety programme featuring the renowned Henry Hall.

"We started having guests in and it turned out to be a very big show," said Scott Johnston lighting up his pipe.

Leading on from this the "AFS Bill" was launched and this is where Tony Hancock had his break and the writers Galt and Simpson (now famous for their Septimus scripts) started.

It was about this time that Dennis Price, one of the stars billed for an hour spectacular, rang just before the show was about to go on to the air to say he may not make it in time.

When Scott Johnston heard the news he replied "Listen



BBC radio producer Alistair Scott Johnston recalls, at his home in Stanford Dingley, one of the funnier incidents of his colourful working life.

Dennis, you have just got to make it, be on the next plane to London."

In the next hour, the BBC producer jacked his brains and rang a police contact. With the co-operation of police and immigration officials, Dennis Price was "arrested" when he got off the plane and given a police escort to arrive within minutes of his scheduled appearance.

"It was just before 8 pm, the red light went on and Frankie Howard did his opening spot. He came off and the Tanner Singers went on. At this moment Dennis entered and we hurriedly rehearsed him, he went on to do a very funny spot," recalled Alistair.

Years went by and "The Variety Playhouse" was born featuring a comic and conductor—Vic Oliver.

"Vic had been an officer in the Austrian army during the First World War and when the country collapsed, he went to America where he accidentally became an overnight success as a comic."

## BIG LAUGH

"One day he went into a hall before an audience and drew up a seat by his piano. The seat collapsed and he got the biggest laugh going," said Scott Johnston.

Vic Oliver—who had died at Downing Street with the Austrian Emperor as an officer with the army—married Winston Churchill's daughter Sarah, and he also died at Number 10 during the Second World War. Mr. Oliver died in 1964.

The "Navy Lark" went on the air in 1939 to become the longest-running situation comedy series ever.

It had been preceded by "The Floggits," the first script of which was written by John Junkin, Dave Freeman and Terry Nation all of whom were writing for their first professional engagement. Terry Nation was later to conceive the "Dr. Who" series for television.

This was a major success and was where they all started," said Scott Johnston while names like Ronnie Barker, Hugh Paddick and Anthony Newley rolled off his tongue.

A chap called Sempin, Alberto Sempin came my way somewhat before this time and took over a 15-minute spot run by Charlie Kunz on the Light Programme.

"He gained colossal figures and we were looking for a

signature tune. One day I walked in while Sempin was playing a tune called "Menigote" and when I asked him what it was he answered, "It's just a little tune of mine."

"I advised him to make it a little simpler, which he did and we ended up with his signature tune—Mediterranean Concerto—which has been his signature tune ever since," smiled Scott Johnston.

Apart from the host of show successes Scott Johnston has achieved, he was also one of the men to pioneer stereo radio.

"We used a channel on the third programme in the morning and a TV channel. The majority of interest in stereo was for music but I had other ideas."

"Imagine a comic drama burglary scene. Using stereo there is tremendous scope, using one speaker to depict the thieves talking in whispers and then all of a sudden in walks a policeman and through the other speaker comes "Hands Up, this is the police."

"This is still an area which needs exploiting which is what I am trying to do in the new

adventure series I am producing—Ricochet—which lends itself superbly to stereo."

Mr. Scott Johnston sees radio as being far more evocative than television and refers to it as a great part of our national heritage.

"It offers in music, drama and comedy, the finest performances in the world and I think that it's definitely a thing of the present and of the future."

Although Alistair Scott Johnston speaks as a younger man, he is approaching retirement age and broadening his interests for this day.

In the past he has been motor racing at Brooklands and has also climbed mountains in Britain.

More recently, however, his interests have centred around his young family Fiona (14), Andrew (15), who is doing an O-level course at St. Bartholomew's Grammar School and James (9)—a pupil at St. Bartholomew's Preparatory School.

Mr. Scott Johnston is a JP and serves on the Bradford and Soanning Bench. In his "spare time" he enjoys a game of bridge.

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# Alistair Scott- Johnson

THE man behind the BBC Radio classics, the Navy Lark, Variety Playhouse and the Frankie Howerd Show, Alistair Scott-Johnson, has died at his home in Stanford Dingley aged 74.

Alistair Scott-Johnson joined the British Broadcasting Corporation very much in its infancy, earning his spurs as "effects boy" before later finding fame in production.

Indeed, London-born Mr Scott-Johnson was the traditional BBC career man, enjoying a 40-year spell with the service, broken only by the war years when he served with distinction with the British Army in Burma and India.

"The BBC was his life and he absolutely loved it," his wife Sarah, a former BBC secretary said this week.

Having married in London in 1956 the Scott-Johnsons headed for Berkshire and their exquisite 15th century cottage in 1959 — the perfect setting to bring up their three adopted children, Andrew, Fiona and James.

James died tragically several years ago.

And it was from his base in Stanford Dingley that Alistair Scott-Johnson was to win the respect and affection of all those who were fortunate enough to meet him in more than 20 years of service to his local community.

His commitments included more than 20 years as a local magistrate and member of the board of visitors to Reading Prison; membership of Reading's Crime Prevention Panel; involvement with the National Rivers Authority and the River Thames Society; and the presidency of the London-based Worshipful Company of Cordwainers.

Mr Scott-Johnson was also vice-president of the Newbury branch of the Burma Star Association and had served Stanford Dingley in the capacity of parish councillor.

"He was always on the go — he was a very active man up until his stroke in February last year," said Sarah.

Alistair Scott-Johnson's funeral took place at Reading Crematorium yesterday (Thursday).

Friday, October 16, 1992

11

LAST DAY  
CAT 17TH

Richocet was one of the last programmes Alastair Scott Johnston undertook prior to retiring. The Radio Times listing below advertises a new series produced especially for the up-to-date and very exciting advent of stereo radio.

We believe the show was in the Dick Barton style, but memories are somewhat vague. Any help or better still, audio copies of the programme would be very welcome.

**Richocet**  
begins today!

O.K. TEAM - WE'VE GOT TO PROFILE THEO HOOK MKII - NOXER - CAN YOU GET ME SOME PICS!



starting  
Ray Barrett  
as Michael John O'Shea  
Margaret White as Jan Paxton  
Alexander John as Dusty Miller  
and DOUGLAS BLACKWELL  
EDWARD KELLEY, CHITTA GORRIET  
Devised and written by  
TONY SCOTT VEITCH. Producer  
ALASTAIR SCOTT JOHNSTON  
(Repeated: Tuesday, 1.44 pm)  
Nick of the Time, page 4. See  
his name in the strip: Fridays





LESLIE PHILLIPS

STEPHEN MURRAY

JON PERTWEE

in

"THE NAVY LARK" No.18

(Fourth series)

by

Lawrie Wyman

Cast in order of appearance

No.1. . . . . Stephen Murray  
Judy )  
Gladys ) . . . . . Judy Cornwell  
Sub. Lt. Phillips. . . . . Leslie Phillips  
C.P.O. Pertwee. . . . . Jon Pertwee  
Captain Povey . . . . . Richard Caldicot  
Charlie Granthemum. . . . . Michael Bates  
Martha Granthemum )  
Heather ) . . . . . Heather Chasen  
Able Seaman Johnson. . . . . Ronnie Barker  
Taffy Goldstein. . . . . Tenniel Evans  
Fred . . . . . Lawrie Wyman

Producer: Alastair Scott Johnston

TRANSMISSION: Friday 12th January 1962 7.31-8.00 p.m. Light  
REPEATS: Sunday 14th January 1962 2.30-2.59 p.m. Light  
Saturday 27th January 1962 1030-1059 GMT GOS  
Wednesday 31st January 1962 0045-0114 GMT GOS  
Thursday 1st February 1962 0515-0544 GMT GOS  
Friday 2nd February 1962 1930-1959 GMT GOS  
RECORDING: Sunday 31st December 1962 8.30-9.15 p.m.  
R.P. REF. NO.: TLO 73550  
REHEARSAL: 5.15 p.m.  
STUDIO: The Playhouse



1. GRAMS: OPENING THEME BM 118-B BAND 1 ESTABLISH THEM  
DOWN FOR:
2. ROBIN: Ladies and gentlemen, we present "The Navy Lark" with our three stars, Leslie Phillips, Stephen Murray and Jon Pertwee.
3. GRAMS: OPENING THEME UP AND DOWN FOR:
4. ROBIN: One of the snags about being in the Navy is that you are liable to be sent on what is called an exercise. It's anyone's bet as to when these exercises are liable to start. In fact if one was a bookmaker you could probably run an exercise 'book'. (LAUGHS) Oh, Robin's rather proud of that one. What do they want Lawrie Lyman for? Robin could write this. But getting back to Naval exercises, Captain Povey is dreaming up a corker for Troutbridge this week.
5. GRAMS: THEME UP TO END
6. NO.1: Good morning Judy - have you seen Captain Povey?
7. JUDY: Of course I have sir. I work for him.
8. NO.1: That's not quite what I meant actually.
9. PHILLIPS: No - what Number One meant was not have you ever seen him, Judy, but he...er...he meant - er...what was it you meant sir? I've got lost.
10. PERTWEE: Stone me - now we've got two of them, sir.
11. NO.1.: Yes. I'll try starrng again. Is Captain Povey in his office this morning, Judy?

1. JUDY: Oh yes sir - of course. He works here too. I thought you knew that sir.
2. NO.1: Er yes - I did actually.
3. PERTWEE: Mr. Murray wants to know if we could see him.
4. JUDY: Oh. Oh I should think so - he's been expecting you for ages.
5. NO.1: Has he- well you might tell him we're here, would you?
6. JUDY: Oh. All right then.
7. FX: BUZZER
8. POVEY: (DISTORT) What is it or have you got your blasted elbow on the buzzer again?
9. JUDY: No I don't think so. The three you wanted to see from Trouthridge are here sir.
10. POVEY: Oh they are, are they? Send them in.
11. JUDY: Very good sir and I haven't.
12. POVEY: Haven't what?
13. JUDY: Got my elbow on the buzzer. I've just looked.
14. POVEY: Oh good grief - what do you want - a medal? Send the fools in.
15. JUDY: Aye aye sir.
16. FX: CLICK



1. JUDY: He said....
2. PHILLIPS: Don't bother - we heard. Well sir, I don't think you really need me this time. I mean as long as one of us goes....
3. PERTWEE: And as long as the one of us isn't Pertwee.
4. PHILLIPS: Or Phillips - that should be quite sufficient.
5. PERTWEE: Oh plenty. No sense in cluttering up his office, sir.
6. PHILLIPS: No - it's small enough already.
7. PERTWEE: Exactly. So if Number One goes on his own we'll be... .
8. NO.1: You'll be coming with him. After you, gentlemen.
9. PHILLIPS: If you insist, sir.
10. PERTWEE: He does.
11. FX: DOOR OPENS
12. POVEY: Come in gentlemen, come in. Time's getting short.
13. PHILLIPS: Oh well in that case we won't keep you sir.
14. PERTWEE: Good morning, sir.
15. NO.1: Good morn.....
16. POVEY: Wait. What's the matter with you three? I won't bite.
17. PERTWEE: Could we have that in writing sir.
18. POVEY: Certainly. I'll get my secretary to....Oh sit down for goodness sake.

1. PHILLIPS: Sit down - us? In here? (HIGH GIGGLE) It's a joke - he's gone potty....(HIGH GIGGLE) Sit down? I think I'd rather take a running jump at....(WILD GIGGLE)  
Sorry pardon.
2. POVEY: Do you think he's settled yet?
3. NO.1: Hard to say sir. Let's carry on and hope for the best.
4. POVEY: Well basically I've asked you three here to let you know that you are going on a landing exercise.
5. PERTWEE: Aaaah! Me leg. I've got 'em. The dreaded and all feared twingeing screws have struck again. They're heredeey-mc-tedical you know. Just let one great-aunt catch 'em and the whole family can be wiped out in a few hundred... .
6. POVEY: All right, all right. You can forget all about that Chief Petty Officer Pertwee. You're going on this exercise if the rest of the ship's company have to carry you.
7. PERTWEE: Well sir, I'm no light weight but if it'll make you happy far be it....
8. NO.1: Chief.
9. PERTWEE: Sir?
10. NO.1: Belt up!
11. PERTWEE: Now where have I heard that before?



1. POVEY: To continue. You will sail in Troutbridge as far as Falmouth. Once there you will anchor and half the crew will be put ashore up the Percuil river just here on the chart - above Percuil yacht basin.
2. NO.1: When is this sir?
3. POVEY: Tuesday at seventeen hundred.
4. PHILLIPS: Just a minute - er - one is thirteen, two is fourteen  
.....
5. POVEY: Before you run out of fingers to count on, Mr. Phillips - five o'clock.
6. PERTWEE: In the afternoon, sir.
7. PHILLIPS: Thanks - jolly helpful of you.
8. POVEY: Not at all. We're used to it. Now the half of the crew you put ashore then will represent the terrorists and be dressed in civilian clothes. You three will then attempt to make a landing in the area that night in one of the sea boats. Always provided you still have your sea boats.
9. PERTWEE: Oh you can be cruel at times, sir.
10. POVEY: There is one other condition and that is you are not to receive any assistance from civilians or divulge to anyone what you are doing. You are to get to Plymouth undetected. Any questions?
11. NO.1: Are we to put an officer in charge of of the terrorists, sir?
12. POVEY: No. Just a leading seaman.



More next time....

# The Navy Lark

*in colour*

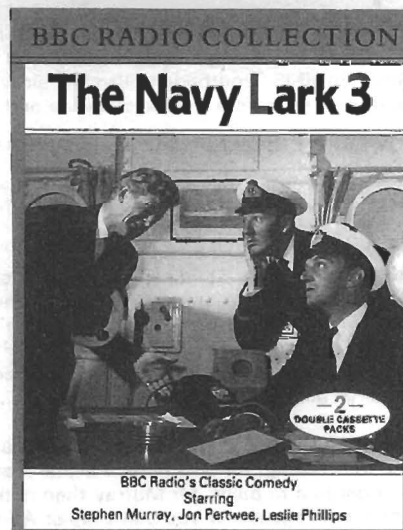
We are very familiar with the formal black and white cast photos of Messers Pertwee, Phillips, Murray, Barker, Caldicot, Evans and Bates shot by the BBC staff photographer aboard HMS Belfast back in the early 1960s.

This occasion ~~was~~ the *only* opportunity in the history of the Navy Lark to ~~assemble~~ the crew of Troutbridge for a photo shoot. Personal careers and commitments conspired against the show in future years, leaving everyone much the poorer photo documentation-wise. Those few photos of the early cast are indelibly printed on our memory and enhance our appreciation of the show.

## However....

A few privately 'snapped' colour photos and slides were taken during the location shoot by family and colleagues on that memorable day. Unlike the BBC material which is copyright restricted, the colour images taken at the same time have no such limitations. Printed on this page is one such photo given to us by Alastair Scott Johnston's daughter Fiona. Evelyn Wells, Alastair's secretary, was also present on the photo shoot and she has promised us copies of her slides taken on HMS Belfast.

So, although this photo looks like it's in glorious monochrome be assured that you just need to adjust your set - unless Pertwee has pinched it.....





# Stephen Murray

Stephen Murray arrived on board Troutbridge in the Autumn of 1959. He took on the role of No.1 from Dennis Price who had departed the shores of the United Kingdom to follow (what he had hoped would be) a bounteous career in America. Mr Murray's first broadcast as a Lieutenant on HMS Troutbridge filled the air waves on Friday 16 October 1959 at 7.30 PM. Lawrie Wyman took the opportunity to use the change of cast to build a related storyline and incorporate connections to 'real life' into it.

**Heather** " ...By the way did you know we have a new No.1?" "Lt Price is out on loan to the United States Navy"

Lawrie also took the decision to put Stephen's name first in the introductory credits in the first show of the second series. Future episodes had Leslie Phillips, Jon Pertwee and Stephen Murray's names rotated to create a sense of an ensemble production as opposed to a well known name with a supporting cast.

And Stephen's first speech? The single word "Remarkable!", stated in response to a very incoherent and bumbling Sub Lieutenant Phillips. The New No1 (which also happens to be the show's name) appears authoritative. Furthermore, Stephen Murray looks like a threat to Leslie Phillips' romantic aspirations with Wren Heather. He is also convinced that Pertwee and his business activities must be carolled from the outset and heads straight to HMS Troutbridge's stores. Upon arriving, he hammers on the door and before Pertwee and UnAble Seaman Johnson can prevent his total entry to Troutbridge's storeroom, the wily officer is met by a physical barrier (the door slamming shut) and Pertwee's protestations as he attempts to hinder No.1's access.....

The matter of Mr Phillips' demolition of one newly built jetty is next on the agenda. In so doing, he also finds a signal requesting that HMS Troutbridge should undergo a re-paint. Mr Murray then makes a unique suggestion to his wardroom colleagues: "If you can't repair Admiralty property - hide it". Mystified at the suggestion, No.1 tells Mr Phillips to re-position Troutbridge adjacent to the severely damaged Jetty in order to inhibit the prying eyes of Commander Povey on his imminent inspection. Any questions about the crushed timbers near the quay could be dismissed by the reply "firewood". As always, events overtake Troutbridge: in their attempts to reposition the ship in front of the smashed jetty the ship runs aground. On the seaward side a launch is seen approaching and Povey is clearly visible. The order to fire is given by No.1. The first shell is incorrectly aimed at Povey's vessel by Mr Phillips, but a second shot destroys the last vestiges of the new jetty. Once aboard Troutbridge, Povey dutifully seeks explanations of events witnessed. Mr Murray calmly delivers such reasonable responses to all the disciplinary matters that Povey is completely won over and pacified. In the concluding scene an audibly elated Pertwee formally welcomes Mr Murray onto Troutbridge with the comment that he feels everyone is going to get along very well, very well indeed!

grams. door being thumped.  
Pertwee: "Stores open to ratings only"  
grams. shuffling and heaving of people  
Johnson: "What's he like?"  
Pertwee: "Persistent!"

TELEVISION  
**RADIO**  
P R



Stephen Murray as the No. 1

## The Navy Lark


FIFTY UP

by Ronnie Hill



## 'TRILBY'

—as du Maurier wrote it. Constance Cox introduces her television version of the world-famous story

 GEORGE DU MAURIER'S famous novel has been a favourite subject for plays and films since its early days as a best-seller, and more than one famous actor has made his mark as that infamous, but fascinating and immensely actable character, Svengali. Almost every member of the older generation to whom one talks remembers Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree in this role, in which he was considered inimitable—but it is not unfair to state that his great performance may have done the book some disservice, as it is now remembered more because of that one character than for its other excellent and lasting qualities. The play version in which Tree appeared should by rights have been called 'Svengali,' for the part so dominated the whole, that the characterisations of Trilby, Billy, and his two friends, Sandy and Taffy, which du Maurier had so lovingly built up, were overshadowed.

In this new version which I have written specially for television, I have endeavoured to present the book as du Maurier wrote it. The three friends with their hopes and aspirations; Trilby in her gentleness and strength; and also a side to Svengali which, although present in the book, has not, I believe, been shown before—that of the brilliant but bitterly disappointed musician.



Stephen Murray as 'Svengali'

The excitement and thrills of the novel still remain, and the love story of Billy and Trilby, with its happiness and heart-break, is played out against the background of the Latin quarter of Paris towards the end of the nineteenth century. To some younger viewers *Trilby* may come completely fresh, and I do hope that on Saturday we shall bring to these something of the excitement the story aroused when it first appeared, and when Tree played Svengali at the Haymarket and Her Majesty's Theatre in 1895.

OVER TWENTY months have passed since *The Navy Lark* went out on the air for the first time. In the intervening period no less than forty-nine further episodes have been heard, which means that this now firmly established favourite is fifty up this week.

Fifty up! That is quite an achievement in the world of radio in which, these days, shows have to be really exceptional to qualify for a place among the long-running 'evergreens.' The history of *The Navy Lark* is one of perseverance and team-work. In 1958 script-writer Laurie Wyman poked his nose into the office of producer Alastair Scott Johnston and tentatively announced that he had an 'idea,' the idea being that he would like to try and build a radio series around the personality of Jon Pertwee. Scott Johnston pricked up his ears and wasted no time; he and Laurie Wyman at once went into a creative huddle and in less than no time the idea was becoming Reality.

To the name of Jon Pertwee were added those of Dennis Price (later succeeded by Stephen Murray as No. 1) and Leslie Phillips, the three stars representing the Brash (Pertwee), the Suave (Price) and the Naive (Phillips). Having established the characteristics of the leading players, it was then necessary to find a background for them. Jon Pertwee having served in the R.N.V.R. during the war, the Navy automatically fell into place as the perfect setting. So far so good. Although these decisions were reached in twenty minutes flat, it nevertheless took all of four months to get the first *Navy Lark* script right.

The show has had some distinguished devotees. Only recently, a special performance was given at the Royal Festival Hall in the presence of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, on the occasion of the twenty-first birthday party of the W.R.N.S. And on another well-remembered day the late Sir Charles Lambie, then First Sea Lord, visited the studio during a rehearsal, and contributed several rather vernal additions to the script! At lower-deck level an on-the-spot survey at a Naval depot has revealed that the show appeals immensely to the 'matelots' who delight in the satirical debunking of Service life and Service types.

Not the least important aspect of this popular show is its music. The signature tune, found only after an intensive and often despairing search, was composed by Tommy Reilly and James Moody. Entitled 'Trade Wind Hornpipe,' this arrangement for harmonica and small orchestra proved to be exactly what was needed to set the highly individual atmosphere of H.M.S. Troutbridge.



Up goes the flag on H.M.S. Troutbridge to salute the fiftieth performance—  
Jon Pertwee, Richard Coddick, Heather Chasen and Leslie Phillips

15-12-1960



# 'The Navy Lark'

THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF  
A WEEKLY  
AND SURELY FICTITIOUS  
ACCOUNT OF EVENTS IN  
A NAVAL DETACHMENT  
ONLY LOOSELY CONNECTED  
WITH  
THE SENIOR SERVICE  
by Laurie Wyman

PRODUCED BY  
ALASTAIR SCOTT-JOHNSTON  
at 7.30



**Stephen Murray**  
Lieut. Murray, the No. 1  
**Jon Pertwee**  
Chief Petty Officer Pertwee  
**Leslie Phillips**  
Sub-Lieut. Phillips  
**Richard Caldicot**  
Commander Povey  
**Heather Chasen**  
Heather  
with assistance from  
Michael Bates, Ronnie Barker, and Tenniel Evans

7.30 News Summary  
'THE NAVY LARK'  
(BBC recording)  
See page 5

(Tenniel Evans is in 'The Unexpected Guest' at the Duchess Theatre; Heather Chasen in 'The Mousetrap' at the Ambassadors Theatre; Ronnie Barker in 'Fiddlers La Douse' at the Lyric Theatre; Michael Bates in 'Look After Lulu' at the New Theatre, London)  
Repeated on Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. (Home Service, not North, Northern Ireland, or Scottish)



OCTOBER 11-17

16-10-1959



Larking again - Caldicot, Phillips, and Murray: 8.2 pm

8.2

## The Navy Lark

with Jon Pertwee  
Leslie Phillips, Stephen Murray  
A chronicle of events aboard  
HMS Troutbridge  
(Sunday's broadcast) †

20 16 JULY 1977

SATURDAY Radio

Radio 2



## The TV Lark

The ex-service men  
of the Navy Lark in  
a Light Programme  
enterprise presented  
by Troutbridge  
Television Ltd. -

on Friday



17-01-1963



# RADIO



## 2.1 New series The Navy Lark



with  
Stephen Murray  
Jon Pertwee  
Leslie Phillips  
A chronicle of  
events aboard  
HMS Troutbridge  
Written by  
LAWRIE WYMAN  
and  
GEORGE EVANS  
and  
involving  
RICHARD CALDICOT, HEATHER CHASEN  
TENNIEL EVANS, MICHAEL BATES  
Announcer MICHAEL DE MORGAN

Produced by  
ALASTAIR SCOTT JOHNSTON †  
(Michael Bates is now appear-  
ing in 'Forget-Me-Not Lane',  
at the Apollo Theatre, London;  
Richard Caldicot in 'No Sex  
Please, We're British' at the  
Theatre Royal, Brighton)  
(Repeated: Mon, 6.15 pm, R4)



IN THE NAVY LARK AT 7.30

More trouble on 'Troutbridge' with  
Pertwee, Leslie Phillips, and Stephen Murray

2-8-1967

**Little KNOWN Fact:** In one episode of *The Navy Lark* the crew on Troutbridge learn No1's middle name. Much play is made of Stephen BUTTERFIELD Murray. Butterfield was in fact Stephen's wife's surname.

## Scrapbook for 1936

NARRATED BY

**Stephen Murray**

The story of the momentous  
and exciting year in which  
BBC Television was born



1968-01-10



[illegible]

The  
Magnet

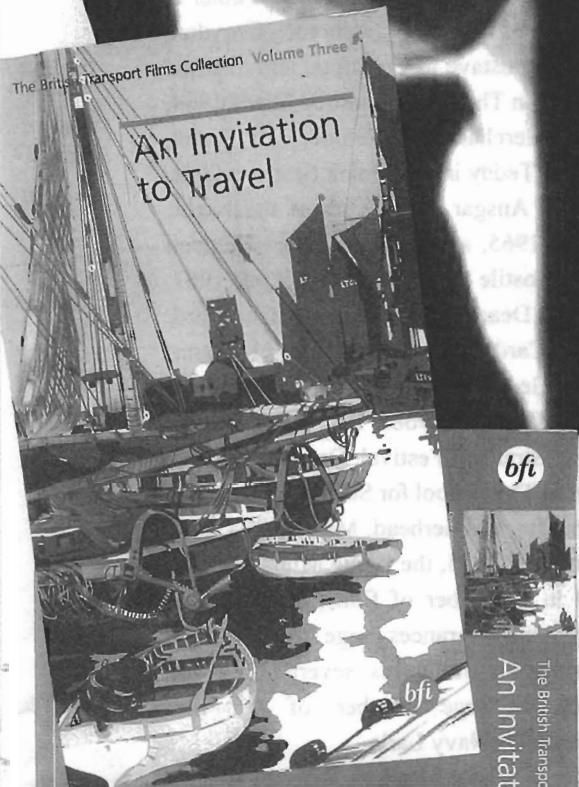


1

5038310

PRESENT  
**The Magnet**  
 READING STUDIOS  
 STEPHEN MURRAY  
 MAY NALSH  
 WILLIAM FOX  
 U  
 ORIGINAL BLACK & WHITE CLASSIC

ORIGINAL BLACK & WHITE CLASSIC



GB | 1956, 1956 | black and white and colour | 112 minutes

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BRUNNEN

from the finest quality materials available, and carry full credit and extensive programs.

## E

The British Transport Films Collection **Volume Three**  
An Invitation to Travel

**bfi**

 **PARENTAL GUIDANCE**  
General viewing, but some  
scenes may be unsuitable  
for young children



  
5 019322 022879



THE  
NEXT  
OF  
KIN



**THE FILM THAT  
CHURCHILL  
TRIED TO BAN!**

# THE NEXT OF KIN



**PG**

**STARRING**

**MERVYN JOHNS JOHN CHANDOS NOVA PILBEAM JACK HAWKINS  
CHARLES VICTOR BASIL RADFORD THORA HIRD  
DAVID HUTCHESON STEPHEN MURRAY PHYLLIS STANLEY**

Wit (2001) VHS





**MURRAY, Stephen**, actor; b Partney, Lincs, 6 Sept 1912; e Brentwood; m Joan Butterfield; studied for the stage at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Made his first appearance on the stage at the Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon, April 1933. in *Much Ado About Nothing*; made his first appearance in London, at the Ambassadors' Theatre, 21 November 1933, as Captain Odderedi in *Cabbages and Kings*; during 1934-5, appeared with the Birmingham Repertory Company; at the Malvern Festival, July-August 1934, played Sloth in *Doctor Faustus*, De Biaufort in *Saint Bernard* and Corporal Saunders in *Mutiny*; Malvern Festival, July-August 1935, *Hammingtap* in *The Simpleton of the Unexpected Isles*, Mosca in *Volpone*, Gunner in *Misalliance*, and in *1066 and All That*; September 1935, returned to Birmingham Repertory Company, for the season, playing leading parts, including *Hamlet* in modern dress; Malvern Festival, 1936, played the Prime Minister in *On the Rocks*, Dunois in *Saint Joan*. Brush in *The Clandestine Marriage*, Branwell Bronte in *The Brontes of Haworth* Parsonage and Hsieh Ping Kuei in *Lady Precious Stream*; Westminster, September 1936-February 1937, played Aleksie Bieliaev in *A Month in the Country*, Walter Kent in *Waste*, Helmy in *Crooked Cross*; People's Palace, March 1937, *Othello*; Old Vic. April-October 1937, the Dauphin in *Henry V*, Freddy Eynsford-Hill in *Pygmalion*, Vincentio in *Measure for Measure*; Vaudeville, November 1937, Pastor Manders in *Ghosts*; Old Vic, December 1937-May 1938, Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Roderigo in *Othello*, Mr Lovat in *The King of Nowhere*. Sicinius Velutus in *Coriolanus*; Open Air Theatre, August 1938, Raguel in *Tobias and the Angel*; Westminster, September 1938-June 1939, Thersites in *Troilus and Cressida* (in modern dress), Charles Stanton in *Dangerous Corner*. Nicolo Polo in *Marco Millions*.

Doctor's Dilemma, Hugh O'Neill and subsequently Stephen Moore in *Bridge Head*; toured, 1939. in Holland, in *Dangerous Corner*; Westminster, October 1939 to August 1940, played Nicholas Lengel and Tom in *Music at Night*, Andrew Undershaft in *Major Barbara*, Eben in *Desire Under the Elms*, Lincoln in *Abraham Lincoln*, and Cornelius in the play of that name; joined the Army, January 1941, was commissioned 1944; Playhouse, February 1944, played Sergeant Ben Joseph in *Desert Highway*; demobilized. March 1946; from 1946-9, mainly engaged in films and radio; Ambassadors', July 1949, Gregory Black in *The Late Edwina Black*; Lyric, Hammersmith, November and Duke of York's, December 1950, M Henri in *Point of Departure*; Arts, September 1951. directed many plays, including: *Saint's Day*; toured Europe, 1952, as Lear, playing this part at the Old Vic, March 1952; Arts, July 1952, directed *The Way to Keep Him*, and October 1952, directed *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*; Embassy, March 1953, Doc in *The Doctor in Bean Street*; at the Q, September 1953, directed *Uncertain Joy*, in which he appeared as Stephen Leigh; Arts, March 1955, directed *Sacrifice to the Winds*, and also appeared as the Professor in *The Lesson*; at the Q, February 1956. played Harry in *Who Cares?*; Winter Garden, May 1957, David Mischler in *The Best Damn Lie*; Piccadilly, October 1958, Erno Gero in *Shadow of Heroes*; Fortune, June 1959, Antoine in *Detour After Dark*; May Fair, August 1963, took over the Father in *Six Characters in Search of an Author*; Ashcroft, Croydon, November 1963, played Gustave in *Creditors*, and directed and played the Professor in *The Lesson*; toured, April 1964, as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*; Richmond, September 1964, played Teddy in *The Poker Session*; Gate, Dublin. February 1965, Ansgar in *Forrests of the Night*; Haymarket. September 1965, succeeded Michael Denison as Simon Crawford in *Hostile Witness*; Savoy, April 1967, Gustave Kummer in *The Deadly Game*; Arnaud, Guildford, April 1968, played the Cardinal in *The Prisoner*; Lyceum, Edinburgh, June 1968, George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*; Watford, November 1968, Bill Maitland in *Inadmissible Evidence*; Stratford Festival, Ontario, summer, 1970, Sir Peter Teazle in *The School for Scandal* and Macey in *The Friends*; Thorndike, Leatherhead, March 1975, Jack in *Home*; Mermaid, August 1975, the Prime Minister in *On the Rocks*; appeared in a number of films, 1946-51; his several hundred television appearances range from *Macbeth* and *Svengali* to serials; on radio his several thousand performances include a large number of the real classical roles as well as *The Navy Lark*.

Favourite part: George, in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

#### WHO'S WHO IN THE THEATRE

Find these wonderful plays in the NLAS library

SM01	22.08.1982	MRS ZANT AND THE GHOST
SM02	02.10.1961	HEDGEHOG
SM03	28.01.1964	THE COFFEE TABLE
SM05	11.12.1971	THE HOLLY AND THE IVY
SM06	11.04.1964	THE LATE EDWINA BLACK



# Pertwee's PLUNDER



Pertwee has just popped out for a meeting with Nunkie and forgotten to close the door to his inner store room. Having peeped inside, this is what can be found....

**Family Tree** - an A2 sized poster listing every actor and series from Lawrie Wyman's various 'Lark' writings. The poster has been reproduced as a part work in the last 4 issues; here it is as a single print **£4.50**

**Front of House or Lobby cards** 8 B&W postcard sized images from the Navy Lark movie (A6 approx) PLUS an alternative poster image on a 9th card **£4.50**

**Navy Lark Movie** (alternative) poster artwork exact replica in original colours and size (1959 Imperial measurements -11X14 approx) **£6.00**

## Troutbridge pin

A carefully sculpted and enamelled pin produced by a company long associated with naval memorabilia



**Actual Size**

- stud fixing **£3.50**

- pin fixing **£3.50**

## Notelets (A6)

envelopes not supplied

**1959 Radio Times cover crew of Troutbridge (sepia) 4 regions:**

**Northern England/ Scotland / Northern Ireland / West of England**

**1959 Radio Times cover photographed with period transistor radios (colour)**

**Navy Lark film poster- full colour cinema version Troutbridge emblem - full colour**

**NLAS lifebouy logo with cast (B&W)**

all the above supplied *unfolded* 50 pence each

A good reference piece is produced by Tony Reynolds. It comes either on PC disc or in printed paper form. It provides some useful data and reprints from most Radio Times entries. **£5.00**

This is purchased direct from Tony Reynolds - address inside cover.

Back copies of Navy Days magazines are **£1.50** (see availability)

To order or renew your subscription (**£8.00**) please use the form (photocopies accepted) on the Back Cover. If you require a receipt for your subs renewal please enclose a SAE with your cheque.

Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to **Navy Lark Appreciation Society**  
(Fred Vintner) **Honeysuckle Cottages, Little Street, Yoxford, Suffolk, IP17 3JQ**

Postage & packing will be free on all orders over **£10.00**





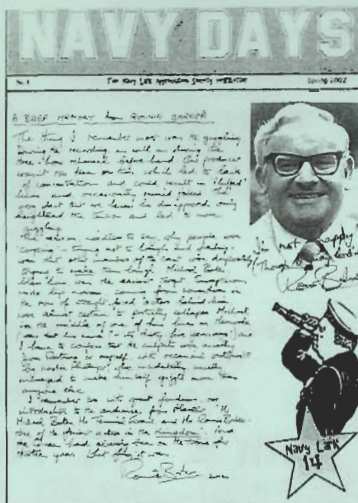


8

Ronnie Barker - writes  
Navy Lark 14  
Liz Morgan - remembers  
Radio 4 Tales From The Backbench  
Professor Branestawm  
Les Miserables  
Outside The Rules  
Pertwee's Progress - an appraisal of Jon Pertwee

Leslie Phillips

6 COPIES



9

Heather Chasen  
Photos from the movie The Navy Lark  
R4610 makes an entrance!  
Navy Lark 14 on CD  
Tenniel Evans - recent recordings  
Just Joe - Jon Pertwee  
Thunderpants - Leslie Phillips



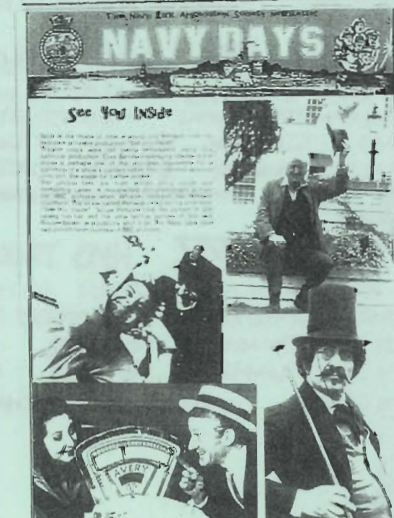
10/11

June Whitfield  
Watch Your Stern - film launch photos  
Heather Chasen on TV  
Tenniel Evans - memories of Troutbridge  
Todhunter Brown  
The Ronnie that Got Away  
Pertwee - a real one and in the navy!  
Engineer Queeg  
The Figurehead - NL episode  
Present Laughter - Leslie Phillips  
Relative Values - Leslie Phillips  
"I Saw the Dr as an Interplanetary Crusader" - JP  
The Navy Lark family tree.  
Part one - insert for 2002 members only



12/13

Jon Pertwee Special  
Biography  
On Film  
In Print  
On Disc  
Obituaries  
The Navy Lark family tree - Part two



14

Navy Lark - BBC Worldwide releases  
The Collection Volume 1  
The Collection Volume 2  
Navy Lark 15  
Casanova '73 - Leslie Phillips  
Leslie Phillips Filmography  
Leslie Phillips - on video  
BBC 7  
The Navy Lark family tree - Part three

FAMILY TREE	£4.50	
LOBBY CARDS	£4.50	
MOVIE POSTER (blue)	£6.00	
TROUTBRIDGE PIN (stud)	£3.50	
TROUTBRIDGE PIN (pin/clip)	£3.50	
NOTELETS: RADIO TIMES	.50P	
NOTELETS: RT & RADIOS	.50P	
NOTELETS: MOVIE POSTER	.50P	
NOTELETS: TROUTBRIDGE EMBLEM	.50P	
NOTELETS: NLAS LIFEBOUY	.50P	
NAVY DAYS 2	£1.50	
NAVY DAYS 3	£1.50	
NAVY DAYS 4	£1.50	
NAVY DAYS 5/6	£1.50	
NAVY DAYS 7	£1.50	
NAVY DAYS 8	£1.50	
NAVY DAYS 10/11	£1.50	
NAVY DAYS 12/13	£1.50	
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£8.00	
TOTAL		
NAME		
ADDRESS		



## UTBRIDGE

3.10.1965 SUN 1400 & WEDS 19.31

PRODUCED BY ALASTAIR SCOTT-JOHNSON

MUSIC: TOMMY REILLY

JAMES MOODY

HEATHER  
CHASEN

LESLIE  
PHILLIPS

STEPHEN  
MURRAY

TENNIEL  
EVANS

RONNIE  
BARKER

JAN  
WATERS

ANNOUNCER: ROBIN BOYLE

11.07.1965  
18.07.1965

## UTBRIDGE

6 - 27.11.1966 SUN 13.30 & WEDS 20.00

PRODUCED BY ALASTAIR SCOTT-JOHNSON

MUSIC: TOMMY REILLY

JAMES MOODY

ON  
ERTWEE

MICHAEL  
BATES

HEATHER  
CHASEN

LESLIE  
PHILLIPS

STEPHEN  
MURRAY

TENNIEL  
EVANS

RONNIE  
BARKER

DAVID DUNHILL  
RONALD FLETCHER 6.11.1966

## THE NAVY LARK IX HMS TROUTBRIDGE

BBC LIGHT PROGRAMME 2.7.1967 - 12.11.1967

SUN 13.30 & WEDS 19.30

WRITTEN BY LAURIE WYMAN

PRODUCED BY ALASTAIR SCOTT-JOHNSON

MUSIC: JAMES MOODY  
TOMMY REILLY



JON  
PERTWEE

MICHAEL  
BATES

HEATHER  
CHASEN

LESLIE  
PHILLIPS

STEPHEN  
MURRAY

TENNIEL  
EVANS

AMANDA  
MURRAY

RONNIE  
BARKER

ANNOUNCER: DONALD FLETCHER  
MICHAEL DE MORGAN 26.9.1967

16.07.1967  
23.07.1967

TV CAREER  
BEGINS

## THE NAVY LARK X HMS TROUTBRIDGE

BBC RADIO 2 13.10.1968 - 09.02.1969

SUN 14.00 & MON 18.15 (R4)

WRITTEN BY LAURIE WYMAN

PRODUCED BY ALASTAIR SCOTT-JOHNSON

MUSIC: JAMES MOODY  
TOMMY REILLY

CHARD  
LDKOT

LAURIE  
WYMAN

JON  
PERTWEE

NGEL  
GRAHAM

LESLIE  
PHILLIPS

STEPHEN  
MURRAY

TENNIEL  
EVANS

ALAN  
DOUG  
JONES

AMANDA  
MURRAY

MICHAEL  
BATES

HEATHER  
CHASEN

27.10.1968  
10.11.1968  
17.11.1968

03.11.1968  
24.11.1968  
08.12.1968  
15.12.1968  
19.01.1969

29.12.1968

ANNOUNCER: MICHAEL DE MORGAN

## THE NAVY LARK XI HMS TROUTBRIDGE

BBC RADIO 2 28.12.1969 - 14.04.1970

SUN 14.00 & MON 18.15 (R4)

WRITTEN BY LAURIE WYMAN + GEORGE EVANS

PRODUCED BY ALASTAIR SCOTT-JOHNSON

MUSIC: TOMMY REILLY  
MICHAEL GORDON

MARK  
DENTON

LAURIE  
WYMAN

RICHARD  
CALDICOT

JON  
PERTWEE

LESLIE  
PHILLIPS

STEPHEN  
MURRAY

TENNIEL  
EVANS

MICHAEL  
BATES

HEATHER  
CHASEN

04.01.1970  
11.01.1970  
14.04.1970

ANNOUNCER: MICHAEL DE MORGAN

## THE NAVY LARK XII HMS TROUTBRIDGE

BBC RADIO 2 16.05.1971 - 16.07.1971

SUN 14.01 & MON 19.02 (R4)

WRITTEN BY LAURIE WYMAN + GEORGE EVANS

PRODUCED BY ALASTAIR SCOTT-JOHNSON

MUSIC: TOMMY REILLY  
JAMES MOODY

NORMA  
RONALD

RICHARD  
CALDICOT

JON  
PERTWEE

LESLIE  
PHILLIPS

STEPHEN  
MURRAY

TENNIEL  
EVANS

MICHAEL  
BATES

HEATHER  
CHASEN

LAURIE  
WYMAN

04.07.1971  
11.07.1971

ANNOUNCER: MICHAEL DE MORGAN

## THE NAVY LARK XIII HMS TROUTBRIDGE

BBC RADIO 2 26.03.1972 - 13.06.1972

SUN 14.02 & SAT 19.02

WRITTEN BY LAURIE WYMAN + GEORGE EVANS

PRODUCED BY ALASTAIR SCOTT-JOHNSON

MUSIC: TOMMY REILLY  
JAMES MOODY

BETH  
GAIN

JUNE  
WHITFIELD

RICHARD  
CALDICOT

JON  
PERTWEE

LESLIE  
PHILLIPS

STEPHEN  
MURRAY

TENNIEL  
EVANS

MICHAEL  
BATES

HEATHER  
CHASEN

LAURIE  
WYMAN

26.03.1972  
21.05.1972

ANNOUNCER: MICHAEL DE MORGAN

## THE NAVY LARK XIV HMS TROUTBRIDGE

BBC RADIO 2 29.07.1973 - 21.10.1973

SUN 14.02 & MON 19.02

WRITTEN BY LAURIE WYMAN + GEORGE EVANS

PRODUCED BY ALASTAIR SCOTT-JOHNSON

MUSIC: TOMMY REILLY  
JAMES MOODY

BAM  
MAYNIES

CHC  
MURRAY

JUNE  
WHITFIELD

RICHARD  
CALDICOT

JON  
PERTWEE

LESLIE  
PHILLIPS

STEPHEN  
MURRAY

TENNIEL  
EVANS

MICHAEL  
BATES

HEATHER  
CHASEN

26.08.73  
02.09.73

ANNOUNCER: BARBARA HAYNES

## THE NAVY LARK XV HMS TROUTBRIDGE

BBC RADIO 2 09.11.1975 - 18.01.1976

SUN 14.02 & SAT 19.02

WRITTEN BY LAURIE WYMAN + GEORGE EVANS

PRODUCED BY ALASTAIR SCOTT-JOHNSON

MUSIC: TOMMY REILLY  
JAMES MOODY

APRIL I  
VALER

RICHARD  
CALDICOT

JON  
PERTWEE

LESLIE  
PHILLIPS

STEPHEN  
MURRAY

TENNIEL  
EVANS

MICHAEL  
BATES

HEATHER  
CHASEN

4.12.1975  
21.12.1975  
28.12.1975  
24.01.1976  
1.01.1976  
8.01.1976

ANNOUNCER: MICHAEL MEACH

